



Sharing capitol ideas.

The Council of State Governments

Midwestern Office

June 26, 2015

Mr. Bob Christianson
State Government Audit Manager
Department of Legislative Audit
427 S. Chapelle
Pierre, SD 57501

701 East 22nd Street
Suite 110
Lombard, Illinois 60148 U.S.A.
Tel: 630.925.1922
Fax: 630.925.1930
E-mail: csgm@csg.org
www.csgmidwest.org

Michael H. McCabe
Regional Director

Dear Mr. Christianson:

On behalf of the officers and members of The Council of State Governments, I am writing in response to your request for some general information about CSG and the benefits of membership that South Dakota enjoys in consideration of its annual payment of CSG membership dues. I hope the information provided herein will prove useful to you, but please don't hesitate to ask if you have additional questions for us, or if there is anything else we can do to be of assistance.

As you undoubtedly know, the Council of State Governments is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state officials representing all three branches of state government in all 50 states and the U.S. territories. Founded more than 80 years ago, CSG's general mission is to promote excellence in state government by providing a wide range of products, services and leadership training opportunities to our members. We also provide a variety of forums for the interstate exchange of information, ideas and best practices, while facilitating the efforts of states to collaborate with each other in addressing common problems that transcend state borders.

Two of the distinguishing characteristics that set CSG apart from other organizations include our multi-branch mission of service to the states and our regional structure. By working with state officials in all three branches of government, and by supporting the efforts of various affiliate organizations of state officials, CSG provides its members with access to networks in every corner of state government. And our regional structure allows us to bring members together with their counterparts in neighboring states in an effort to address issues of particular importance within a given geographic region.

Therefore, in assessing the value of a state's membership in CSG, it is important to consider the many ways in which states – and individual state officials – interact with CSG at both the national and regional levels.

At the national level, for instance, member states have access to a vast array of products and services that are provided by CSG's national headquarters office, located in Lexington, Kentucky, as well as by the CSG Justice Center (based in New York City with staff in several locations across the country) and CSG's federal liaison and international affairs office, located in Washington, D.C. These include numerous conferences, seminars, training programs, publications, electronic resources and leadership opportunities, as well as access to the specialized expertise of CSG's national affiliate organizations (e.g., the American Probation and Parole Association, the National Emergency Management Association, the National Association of State Technology Directors, the National Association of State Personnel Executives, etc.) and technical assistance provided by entities such as CSG's National Center for Interstate Compacts.

At the regional level, Midwestern state officials participate in, and benefit from, the work of several different regional entities supported by CSG's Midwestern Office, including the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC), the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus, the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission, the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee and more. And this office provides a number of products and services that are tailored for the benefit of Midwestern state officials, including conferences, seminars, publications, webinars, online resources, international exchange programs, an on-demand inquiry service and more.

Lexington
P.O. Box 11910
Lexington, Kentucky 40578
Tel: 859.244.8000

Atlanta
P.O. Box 98129
Atlanta, Georgia 30359
Tel: 404.633.1866

New York
100 Wall Street
20th Floor
New York, New York 10005
Tel: 212.402.2320

Sacramento
1107 9th Street
Suite 730
Sacramento, California 95814
Tel: 916.553.4423

Washington
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 401
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 202.624.5460



100% post consumer

In short, there are numerous ways at both the national and regional levels in which states and individual state officials benefit from their membership in CSG. To further illustrate this point, I am enclosing several items for your reference, including:

- a snapshot of some of the ways in which South Dakota has participated in national CSG activities and/or directly benefitted from select national CSG initiatives in recent years;
- a brochure describing in greater detail some of the products and services provided to South Dakotans through CSG's Midwestern regional office here in Chicago;
- cumulative listings of the South Dakota state officials who have participated in two of CSG's premier leadership training programs since their inception – the Toll Fellowship Program at the national level; and the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD) at the regional level

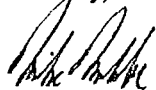
Please bear in mind that this is only a representative sample of the many ways in which we believe South Dakota benefits from its membership in CSG. We would be happy to provide others if this information is useful to you.

South Dakota has long been a valued member of The Council of State Governments and has a history of active participation in its work at both the regional and national levels. While we believe the state has reaped many benefits from its membership over the years, we also recognize that South Dakota routinely makes invaluable contributions to the interstate exchange of information and ideas that CSG seeks to promote. Without question, CSG has benefitted from the key leadership that many South Dakotans have provided over the years (e.g., former Governor Mike Rounds, who served as CSG's national President in 2010), and we continue to be stronger for the state's active participation in CSG events today (e.g., a delegation of 16 legislators is expected to take part in the 70th Annual Meeting of CSG's Midwestern Legislative Conference next month in Bismarck, North Dakota).

For all of these reasons, we believe that South Dakota's membership in CSG has been – and remains – mutually beneficial to both the state and our organization. We are well aware of the fact that these are challenging times for all of our member states, and we never take their financial support for granted. Instead, we remain committed to earning their trust and participation on a daily basis, and we certainly hope to earn South Dakota's continued support as well.

Thank you for your inquiry and for your consideration of this information. If you have any additional questions, or if this office can be of any further service, please feel free to call me at 630/925-1922.

Sincerely,



Michael H. McCabe
Director
CSG Midwestern Office